

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-09 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04

RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 AF-10

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SUBJECT: UNCTAD: PREPARATIONS FOR TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REF: GENEVA 1236

BEGIN SUMMARY: GROUP B HELD PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS PRINCIPALLY ON FORTHCOMING BOARD MEETINGS. ON MAIN ISSUE OF REVIEW AND APPRAISAL THERE AS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SPECIAL SESSION SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS RATHER THAN ON SEEKING NEW AREAS OF AGREEMENT ON POLICY MEASURES. GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN APRIL 2 IN CONJUNCTION WITH MEETING ON PREFERENCES. END SUMMARY

1. GROUP B (DEVELOPED) COUNTRIES MET MAR 23 FOR PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON REPORT OF COORDINATOR CONTAINED REFTEL. NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY INDIVIDUAL DELS. (SEE ALSO SEPTTEL ON COMMODITIES).

2. FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION.

A. GDR- DESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF GROUP D NOT CONSIDERED PROBLEM.

B. REVIEW AND APPRAISAL - COORDINATOR (STAEHELIN- SWITZERLAND) REPORTED THAT LDOS WANT DISCUSS NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DDII. CHILE UNCLASSIFIED

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WANTS TDB ALSO CONSIDER SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH IS BEYOND UNCTAD'S COMPETENCE. OECD REP (BLACK) STATED OECD HAS DONE LITTLE ON R& A AND WILL BE DIFFICULT SET UP MEETING BECAUSE OF TIGHT OECD CALENDAR. FRANCE EXPRESSED CONCERN LDCS LIKELY MOVE IN DIRECTION REWRITING DDII AS EVIDENCED BY PROPOSALS BEING MADE IN ECOSOC COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. WHILE NOT READY REDRAFT DDII, CANADA SAID SESSION MIGHT CONSIDER WHETHER NEW AREAS SUCH AS ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT MIGHT BE ADDED TO STRATEGY. FRANCE, GERMANY, UK, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA SPECIFICALLY REJECTED IDEA PURPOSE OF TDB WAS REVISION OF DDII. US NOTED THAT PURPOSE OF R& A CLEARLY STATED IN PARA 79 OF DDII (WHICH EMPHASIZES IN FIRST INSTANCE IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS) BUT THAT LDCS LIKELY MAINTAIN TDB SHOULD BE GOVERNED BY PARA 2 OF RES 79 III (WHICH EMPHASIZES POLICY ISSUES). SAID PRINCIPAL SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT IS REplete WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW POLICY MEASURES. IN SUMMARIZING, CHAIR SAID PRELIMINARY VIEW SEEMS BE THAT TDB MIGHT LOOK INTO NEW ISSUES TO SEE IF THERE ARE NEW AREAS OF AGREEMENT BUT PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF SESSION SHOULD BE AS OUTLINED IN PARA 79 OF DDII. CHANGING OF STRATEGY SHOULD BE LEFT TO MID-DECADE REVIEW. SUBJECTS COVERED MUST BE WITHIN UNCTAD'S COMPETENCE. GROUP BE SHOULD NOT AGREE IN ADVANCE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP SINCE THIS MIGHT GIVE IMPRESSION GROUP READY AGREE TO LDC APPROACH TO R& A.

C. WORK PROGRAM. COORDINATOR SAID UNCTAD PAPER ON BUDGET BEING HELD UP BY UN IN NY, AND LIKELY BE ISSUED VERY LATE. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WILL SUBMIT PORTIONS OF ITS SUBMISSION IF NY CLEARED PAPER NOT READY IN TIME. US SUGGESTED COORDINATOR EXPLAIN TO SECRETARIAT NEED HAVE DOCUMENT IN TIME FOR STUDY BY CAPITALS TO MAKE DISCUSSION IN WP MORE MEANINGFUL.

3. TDB XII RESUMED.

A. COORDINATION. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON UK SUGGESTION THAT, IN VIEW OF SHORTNESS OF SESSION, THOSE WHO SUPPORTED DRAFT RESOLUTION AT TDB XII ESTABLISH INFORMAL, NON-BINDING CONTRACTS WITH GROUP OF 77 AT 5TH SPECIAL SESSION TO TRY WORK OUT FACE-SAVING COMPROMISE FOR AFRICANS ON PARA DEALING WITH EXPLICIT UNCTAD COORDINATING ROLE ON TRADE, MONETARY AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES. (US DID NOT SUPPORT DRAFT RESOLUTION. SEE GENEVA 4699) SOME DELS EXPRESSED CONCERN LDCS MAY WISH REWRITE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF EVENTS SINCE LAST MEETING. GERMANY SUGGESTED GROUP B NOT AGREE IN ADVANCE ESTABLISH CONTACT GROUP ON COORDINATION RESOLUTION.

B. INTERMODAL TRANSPORT. US DEL MADE POINTS STATE 47314. UK DOUBTED

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UNCTAD WORK COULD BE CONFINED TO LEGAL AND DOCUMENTARY REGIME ASPECTS AND EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF WIDER STUDIES. BRITISH REP SAID HE HAD TROUBLE WITH TERM MULIMODAL BECAUSE IMPLIED SIMULTANEOUS CARRIAGE BY DIFFERENT MODES. SINCE OTHER DELS UNINSTRUCTED, SUBJECT LEFT OPEN.

4. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. CHARTER. CHAIR REPORTED SECRETARIAT NOW PROPOSING KEEP JULY 16-27 DATES FOR NEXT SESSION OF WG ON CHARTER BUT EXTEND LENGTH OF DAILY MEETINGS AND HOLD TWO SATURDAY SESSIONS TO MEET DEMANDS OF LDCS FOR LONGER SESSION. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, CHAIR CONCLUDED THAT IN VIEW LONG ROAD AHEAD, DOESN' T SEEM NECESSARY PLAN IN ADVANCE FOR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT.

B. REFORM OF UNCTAD. CANADA DREW ATTENTION TO SECRETARIAT NOTE ON RESOLUTION 81(III) WHICH ALL GROUP B COUNTRIES VOTED AGAINST (SEE GENEVA A-99). IT SUGGESTED GROUP B COUNTRIES REPLY IN SIMILAR WAY, I. E. WE SEE NO NEED FOR A NEW TRADE ORGANIZATION OR A SESSIONAL COMMITTEE AT TDB XIII. ISSUE LEFT OPEN. RIMESTAD

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